

Community Services and Recreation

DRAFT MINUTES/APPROVED

To: Parks & Recreation Commission Members

From: Gerardo Sorkin, Director

Re: Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting November 17, 2008

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Mary Lou Stamp at 7:00 p.m.

I. Attendance:

Present: Mary Lou Stamp, Al Centone, Suzanne Lewis, Frank Montagna, Susan Puzycki, Richard Wilson

Staff: Gerardo Sorkin, Director of Community Services and Recreation, Victor Palma, Superintendent of Public Works & Field Operations, and Carla Pelliccio (Secretary).

II. Acceptance of Minutes:

There are two corrections to the September 15th meeting minutes. On the third page, first paragraph, it was stated, *Ms. Hannon stated that the Commission needs a recommendation from Mr. Montagna and Mr. Centone as to what fields will need to be rested.* Correction: Ms. Stamp stated this, not Ms. Hannon (who is Chairperson for Community Services Commission). On the last page of the report, second full paragraph, it was stated, *Ms. Lewis complimented the upkeep of several of the parks that he had visited the week prior.* Correction: Mr. Wilson complimented on the upkeep of these parks.

Frank Montagna made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected, seconded by Al Centone.

III. Correspondence:

A letter was received by Gerardo Sorkin from Michael Pepe and Dave Mikas requesting additional funding from the Town of North Haven for the Youth Basketball Program. This year they have nearly 170 participants and will form 17 teams of boys and girls basketball. Registrants pay \$150 to play in the program, and due to the modest discount of those families with multiple children and with financial hardship, they have fallen short of their projected cost to run the league. Gerardo Sorkin will report on this in the Director's Report.

IV. Director's Report:

Gerardo Sorkin, Director of Community Services and Recreation
Youth Basketball Program:

Mr. Pepe and Mr. Mikas has submitted a proposal requesting funding in the amount of \$13,350. While this amount exceeds what is available, Mr. Sorkin would like to recommend that \$6,000 be given to the Youth Basketball Program upon receipt of their Certificates of Incorporation and Insurance.

Recreation:

The Annual Halloween Party was held on Wednesday, October 31, 2008, from 4:30-6:00pm. Activities included face painting, refreshments, pictures with the Great Pumpkin, balloons and entertainment. There was a great turnout of children this year. Each child received a bag of candy at the conclusion. Special thanks to McDonald's for co-sponsoring again this year. Also thanks to Bill Gambardella of Joe's Ice Cream for the donation of ice cream and candy.

Open basketball for women 18 and older on Tuesday evenings at the Recreation center gymnasium now through April 2009, from 7:00-9:00pm (alternating with men 40 and older).

Open basketball for men 40 and older on Tuesday evenings at the Recreation center gymnasium now through March 2009, from 7:00-9:00pm (alternating with women 18 and older).

Coed open volleyball -18 and older. Thursday evenings at the Recreation center gymnasium now through April 2009, from 7:00-9:00pm (new program).

Registration for the winter programs will begin the first week in December. Programs begin in mid-January.

The annual Tree Lighting is scheduled for Sunday, December 7th. The event begins at 2:00pm and concludes at 5:00pm with the lighting of the tree (rain date will be December 8th from 3-6pm). Outdoor activities include hayrides around the Green and caroling. Indoor activities include face painting, cookie decorating, craft room, pictures with Santa, refreshments and a musical review by Minotti Music. The commissioners are cordially invited to attend.

The 20th anniversary of the pool was held on October 23rd. There was a great turnout of our regular swimmers. Special thanks to Brock Enterprises for the banner and water bottles, as well as to Al Centone and Aramark for the donation of coffee and supplies for refreshments.

Update on Youth Basketball. Newly formed NHYB will be overseeing the program for boys and girls ages 9 and older. Over 170 children registered. The Recreation staff is still working closely with the board members of NHYB.

V. Old Business:

Victor Palma, Superintendent of Public Works & Field Operations

Determination of playability of the Youth Football Field: Mr. Palma was happy to report that things have been working well as far as game relocation or postponement when faced with inclement weather conditions. Mr. Palma is still in the process of working on a draft of these guidelines. He has already spoken to Dave Mikas regarding these guidelines, and would like to sit down with Mr. Centone to discuss soon. Once he has met with Mr. Mikas and Mr. Centone to review, he will bring these guidelines to the Commission for their review.

On a related note, Mr. Palma has identified that the PA system on the Youth Football Field has a blown speaker and has an electrical contractor to repair the system within the next couple of days.

A question from last meeting had been raised by Mr. Capucci as to whether a policy was in place regarding dogs to the summer concert series. Mr. Palma reported that he is not aware of a town ordinance in place that requires dogs to be on a leash when on the Town Green. He reiterated the fact that there are signs located at the entrance of the green regarding cleaning up after your pets. Mr. Palma suggests that additional signs stating this be posted at the rest of the parks in Town.

Max Sinoway Request for Field Usage: During last meeting, members from Max Sinoway requested assistance in finding 3 little league fields (2 would suffice). Ms. Stamp reported that she spoke with Mr. Palma after last meeting and discussed the Mill Rd. ACES field as a possible field for the Spring, however Mr. Palma had not had the chance to discuss this idea with the members of Max Sinoway yet, however does still feel that this would be a strong possibility. Mr. Palma feels that they may not be happy with this choice since this field does not have an irrigation system. If they do agree to use this field, Mr. Palma will do his best to clean up the field and weed it before they begin using it.

Following the September 15th meeting, Ms. Stamp had called Mr. Kowoleski (*Vice President, Max Sinoway*) after speaking w/ Mr. Palma to inform him of the possibility of allowing them usage of the Mill Rd. ACES field for the Scooters Program. Ms. Stamp also received a call from Mr. McDonald who had brought forth an idea of allowing parents to maintain the field. This poses two foreseeable issues which include an insurance issue, as well as union issue. Mr. McDonald inquired about Green Acres, which falls under the domain of Board of Education. Ms. Stamp encouraged Mr. McDonald to pursue this possibility with the Board of Education, however he would be faced with the same issues. Mr. Palma reiterated the point here that guidelines will need to be put in place for these types of issues.

During the conversation Ms. Stamp had with Mr. McDonald, Ms. Stamp reported that he also questioned the issue of resting the fields. Ms. Stamp had explained to him that Mr. Palma had expressed concern that teams start early (in March, and grass cannot be planted in August. Ms. Stamp asked for clarification on the statement from the September 15th meeting minutes regarding resting fields 3 and 4: *"It had already been decided that to shut down fields 3 and 4 this year, and plans to shut down fields 1 and 2 next year are in order."* Ms. Stamp was under the assumption that this decision was made during the previous year. Mr. Centone asked if another motion should be made to rest fields 1 and 2. Mr. Palma suggested that the Commission wait to vote on a date prior to fall. Mr. Palma added that he suggests that a fertilization program for these fields be implemented.

Regarding previous conversation on policy and guidelines: Ms. Stamp distributed to all commissioners a 2 page handout; the first page included the mission statement of the Parks and Recreation Commission (taken from the Town of North Haven website). She pointed out that while a mission statement exists, guidelines do not, thus reiterating the need for guidelines. The second page included information taken from other town Commission websites. Ms. Stamp suggested a guideline as it relates to requests of funding. She and Mr. Sorkin discussed the idea of requiring feedback (either in writing or in presentation form) reporting back to the commission as to how the funds were used, as well as requiring that a program evaluation be conducted. In addition to this, Ms. Stamp discussed the need for guidelines to be put into place regarding the playability of the fields (whether the commission designates a representative to evaluate the field), the dog leash policy and the use of the gated fields. As a side note, Ms. Stamp asked for clarification on equipment inspection. Mr. Palma mentioned earlier in the meeting that a faulty PA speaker was being repaired. It was clarified that Public Works handles the inspection equipment if they receive a call. Ms. Stamp encouraged all Commissioners to think about possible guidelines that they feel should be put into place as they begin to create the list and bring it to the table for the next meeting in January. Regarding program evaluation, Mr. Sorkin will provide a draft to the next meeting for the Commissioners review.

VI. New Business:

Youth Basketball Program:

As stated by Mr. Sorkin in the Director's Report (Part IV), Mr. Pepe and Mr. Mikas has submitted a proposal requesting funding in the amount of \$13,350. While this amount exceeds what is available, Mr. Sorkin would like to recommend that \$6,000 be given to the Youth Basketball Program upon receipt of their Certificates of Incorporation and Insurance.

Ms. Lewis made a motion to give the 6,000 to the Youth Basketball Program, seconded by Mr. Wilson. All were in favor.

VII. Public Participation:

No people were in attendance.

VIII. Adjournment:

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 20, 2009. Mr. Sorkin will not be present at the January meeting, however will send a representative on his behalf. Ms. Stamp mentioned that she will not be available for the March 16th meeting. After discussion with all Commissioners, it had been decided that the March 16th Commission meeting will be rescheduled to March 23rd. Ms. Stamp asked that Commissioners let her know of any conflicts in regard to the March 23rd meeting at the January meeting. At that time, if no conflict exist, this revised date of March 23rd will be posted accordingly.

Ms. Stamp asked for a Motion to Adjourn. Motion made by Mr. Centone, seconded by Mr. Montagna. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.